

- Q1
- (b) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof under highly stringent conditions of 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and 1 mM EDTA at 65°C and washing in 0.1x SSC/0.1%SDS at 68°C.
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- Q2
4. (Amended) A purified protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.
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Please add new claims 5 and 6 as follows:

- 5. (New) The recombinant expression vector of claim 3, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

- Q3
6. (New) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 3.--
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RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

No claims have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been amended. New claims 5 and 6 have been added.

Claims 1-6 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

II. Support for the Amended and Newly Added Claims

Claim 1 has been revised to further clarify the claim. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 2, lines 5-6.

Claim 2 has been revised to further clarify the claim, and to recite specific highly stringent hybridization conditions. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 2, lines 5-6, and page 4, lines 27-30.

Claim 4 has been revised to further clarify the claim. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 22,